



# PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation  
New Orleans Field Office  
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## BOSSIER CITY RETURN PREPARER PLEADS GUILTY TO FILING FALSE INCOME TAX RETURN

**Shreveport, LA** – Acting IRS Criminal Investigation Special Agent in Charge Jerome R. McDuffie announced today that a Bossier City woman pleaded guilty on Thursday, March 19, 2015, to filing a false personal income tax return.

KAREN CARTAGENA, 54, of Bossier City, La., entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Elizabeth E. Foote, to one count of subscribing to a false income tax return. According to evidence presented at the guilty plea, CARTAGENA filed a false 2011 Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, in her own name. The return falsely claimed education credits that CARTAGENA admitted she was not entitled to receive. Her 2011 Form 1040 reflected a false Form 8863, Education Credits (American Opportunity and Lifetime Learning Credits) and reflected non-existent educational expenses.

Testimony at today's hearing showed that the IRS' investigation began after it was alleged CARTAGENA prepared false income tax returns for clients at Prime Time Tax Service in Shreveport, Louisiana and First Choice Tax Services in Shreveport, Louisiana. CARTAGENA was previously convicted in 2008 of preparing false income tax returns.

"Return Preparer fraud is a priority for IRS Criminal Investigation and we have committed many resources to these cases," said Acting Special Agent in Charge McDuffie. "Ms. CARTAGENA was previously convicted of preparing false income tax returns and willfully chose to continue her illegal activities. Taxpayers should be very selective in choosing a return preparer, and have confidence that their returns are prepared accurately and reflect only the information that they provide. We will continue to vigorously investigate and prosecute return preparers who abuse the nation's tax system."

CARTAGENA faces up to three years in prison, one year of supervised release, a \$100,000.00 fine, and restitution. A sentencing date of July 16, 2015 was set.

Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation conducted the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Earl Campbell is prosecuting the case.

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